

Patent claims

*Add 12*

1. An arrangement for eliminating, or at least for  
reducing the size of, interspaces between a first and a  
5 second element and between the second element and a third  
element, all three elements being arranged one behind the  
other, along a common longitudinal axis, at the distal  
arrangement end and being rotatable relative to one  
10 another about the relevant longitudinal axis, the three  
elements being formed, in particular, by a suture-feed  
part, a suture-clamping part and a suture-accommodating  
part of an arrangement for guiding at least two sutures  
through a wall, in particular of an artery of an  
15 individual, in the vicinity of the edge region of an  
opening provided therein, it being the case that the first  
element, provided at the distal arrangement end, is  
connected, via an inner sleeve, to a first retaining or  
rotary adjustment part provided at the proximal  
20 arrangement end, it being the case that the second  
element, directly adjacent to the first element provided  
at the distal arrangement end, is connected to an outer  
sleeve, which encloses the abovementioned inner sleeve and  
is connected to a second retaining or rotary adjustment  
25 part, provided at a distance from the abovementioned first  
retaining or rotary adjustment part in the direction of  
the distal arrangement end, and it being the case that the  
third element, directly adjacent to the abovementioned  
second element at the distal arrangement end in the  
30 direction of the proximal arrangement end, is connected to  
a third retaining or rotary adjustment part, which is  
adjacent to the abovementioned second retaining or rotary  
adjustment part in the direction of the distal arrangement  
end, characterized in that in each case one spring device  
35 (13, 14) is provided between the first retaining or rotary  
adjustment part (35) and the second retaining or rotary  
adjustment part (34) and between the second retaining or

rotary adjustment part (34) and the third retaining or rotary adjustment part (36), said spring device forcing the respectively adjacent retaining or rotary adjustment parts (35, 34; 34, 36) away from one another.

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2. The arrangement for eliminating, or at least for reducing the size of, interspaces between a first and a second element and between the second element and a third element, all three elements being arranged one behind the other, along a common longitudinal axis, at the distal arrangement end and being rotatable relative to one another about the relevant longitudinal axis, the three elements being formed, in particular, by a suture-feed part, a suture-clamping part and a suture-accommodating part of an arrangement for guiding at least two sutures through a wall, in particular of an artery of an individual, in the vicinity of the edge region of an opening provided therein, it being the case that the first element, provided at the distal arrangement end, is connected, via an inner sleeve, to a first retaining or rotary adjustment part provided at the proximal arrangement end, it being the case that the second element, directly adjacent to the first element provided at the distal arrangement end, is connected to an outer sleeve, which encloses the abovementioned inner sleeve and is connected to a second retaining or rotary adjustment part, provided at a distance from the abovementioned first retaining or rotary adjustment part in the direction of the distal arrangement end, and it being the case that the third element, directly adjacent to the abovementioned second element at the distal arrangement end in the direction of the proximal arrangement end, is connected to a third retaining or rotary adjustment part, which is adjacent to the abovementioned second retaining or rotary adjustment part in the direction of the distal arrangement end, characterized in that, with the second and third

retaining or rotary adjustment parts (34, 36) coupled to one another in the direction of the abovementioned longitudinal axis, the outer sleeve (7), which is connected to the second retaining or rotary adjustment part (34), can be displaced relative to said second retaining or rotary adjustment part (34) in the direction of the abovementioned longitudinal axis and at its proximal end, which is located between the first and second retaining or rotary adjustment parts (35, 34), has an edge (17), in each case one spring device (18, 19) being provided between said edge and the respectively adjacent sides of the first and second retaining or rotary adjustment parts (35, 34).

15 3. The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the respective spring device (13, 14, 18, 19) is formed by a compression spring.

20 4. The arrangement as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the respective spring device (13, 14, 18, 19) is formed by a compression spring.